

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE

COI

ACP

TOG

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MRO

DCI

TRI

PAGE

OF

PAGES

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100180038-8

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/DCI/WHIZWH 741114

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4
 WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
 INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: REPORTED INDIAN DECISION TO PURCHASE MIG-23 FLOGGER
 AIRCRAFT 25X1A2g

REF :

25 1X6

THE INDIANS HAVE DECIDED TO PURCHASE 50 MIG-23 FLOGGERS FROM THE
 USSR. FOR FINANCIAL REASONS, THE MIG-23 IS INDIA'S MOST LIKELY
 CHOICE, BUT SUCH A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

FINANCIAL REASONS ASIDE, ACTUALLY THE INDIAN AIR FORCE HAS
 CONTINUALLY INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR THE BRITISH JAGUAR. THE
 AIR FORCE HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE MIG-23 BECAUSE OF ITS
 SHORT RANGE, INABILITY TO REACH A SPEED OF MACH 2, AND INFERIOR
 NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM. THE INDIANS ALSO ARE WORRIED THAT THE
 VARIABLE WING AIRCRAFT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN, ESPECIALLY
 INELIGHT OF PREVIOUS SUPPLY PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIETS.

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

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CLASSIFICATION

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E 2

IMP 1

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FORM

1-74 4C

USE PREVIOUS
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2 2

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SOURCE REF:

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IF A DECISION TO BUY THE MIG-23 RATHER THAN THE JAGUAR HAS BEEN MADE, THE CONTRACT PROBABLY HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED YET. MOST DEALS OF THIS MAGNITUDE ARE FINALIZED BY THE CHIEF OF THE SERVICE INVOLVED OR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. INDIA'S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS NOT BEEN TO MOSCOW SINCE EARLY SUMMER, AND ALTHOUGH THE CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT MOSCOW IN AUGUST, THE TRIP WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE UNRESOLVED MIG-23 ISSUE.

A REPORT OF LAST JUNE [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT THE MIG-23 DEAL WOULD INCLUDE LICENSED PRODUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT BEGINNING IN 1978. THE CURRENT REPORT, HOWEVER, PROVIDES NO CONTRACT DETAILS. E-2 IMPDET.H

25X1X6

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND NIO [REDACTED])

25X1A9a

DATE: 14 NOV 74
 ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS
 UNIT: CIA OPS CTR
 EXT: 9340

25X1A9a

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